

She also attended Palisade High School where she participated in many activities, including spending three years as a Varsity Cheerleader. Rebecca was eager to continue her education, leaving for Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado the summer after graduation, while her future classmates stayed home. During the course of her college career, Rebecca participated in a unique program by spending the summer educating young women in the correctional facilities near Denver, Colorado. The program was a great learning experience, teaching both Rebecca and the girls lessons that they could carry with them the rest of their lives.

In the 26 years that Rebecca has been at Taylor Elementary she has taught a number of grades, but kindergarten is the grade level that she has grown to love. Rebecca continued to challenge herself and received her Masters Degree in Elementary education. In addition, she attends the Kindergarten Convention for elementary teachers every year. The minute you walk into her classroom you are sent back to being a five year old once again. The class is packed with colorful Sesame Street characters illustrating the alphabet or numbers. The irrepressible Cookie Monster is everywhere, reminding students that learning is fun. She is well respected among her peers and is often sought after for advice on classroom technique. Dee Crane, principal at Taylor, calls Mrs. Watson "a real star." She compliments Rebecca on her creativity, her love of the kids, and dedication. Rebecca is not only recognized by Taylor Elementary staff, but she also received the Mesa County School District Teacher of the Year Award in 1999. The nomination for Disney's Teacher of the Year was a surprise only to Rebecca. Although she was not chosen for the honor last year, she was asked to share her ideas from the "cookie class" on the Disney website. This year Rebecca was nominated for the honor again. It is inspirational to know at a time when our education system is under such critical attack that there are teachers going above and beyond to insure the students leaving there class have every advantage.

Mr. Speaker, as Rebecca's husband Allen, and daughters Kelly and Jodie, along with friends and colleagues wait to hear the final word on the Disney Teacher of the Year Award, I would like to wish her luck and thank her for her efforts. If all the teachers in this great Nation would follow Rebecca's example, the education system in the United States would benefit greatly. That said, I ask Congress to honor Rebecca Watson, she is truly an inspiration to not only her Colorado colleagues, but to teachers around the country.

ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the occasion of the eleventh anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which works on protecting our citizens with both hidden and visible disabilities from discrimination.

The Americans with Disabilities Act has been protecting citizens of this great nation for

the past eleven years. In fact, 52.6 million Americans live with some level of a disability. That translates into one in every 5 people. In fact, one in every eight U.S. residents has a severe disability.

This Act does not allow people to discriminate against people with disabilities and requires that necessary accommodations be made to assist the disabled. Commonplace amenities such as elevators and ramps in all new buildings were virtually unheard of before the passing of the 1990 act. What is now viewed as a regular feature in movie theaters and other venues, listening aids were once uncommon and unavailable. One of the most recent triumphs of the Americans with Disabilities Act has been the United States Supreme Court Ruling that a golf cart must be supplied to disabled golfer, Casey Martin, for his PGA Tournaments. The Americans with Disabilities Act also extends to non-physical and more often hidden disabilities, allowing at the most basic level accommodations to be made for students in schools nationwide as well as elected officials, many of whom would never have had an opportunity for public service without ADA.

Mr. Speaker, for the past eleven years the Americans with Disabilities Act has been an integral part of this nation. As such, the Americans with Disabilities Act is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all my colleagues will join me in commemorating this truly remarkable law.

HONORING WILLARD ALLEN MEYER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I now rise to honor the life and memory of an outstanding person, Willard Allen Meyer. As family and friends mourn his passing, we all will remember Will's talents and remarkable life.

Much of Will's life was spent educating himself. He received his B.A. in Economics from Southern Illinois University, becoming the first person in his family to graduate from college. He then continued his education at the University of Freiburg in Germany and the University of Massachusetts. After his formal schooling, Will taught economics at Allegheny College. In addition to his impressive academic career, Will was a proficient carpenter, mason, as well as a business owner, chef, civic volunteer, and community servant.

Will was also a well-traveled man. His love of new experiences drove him to live throughout the United States, Germany, France and Switzerland. Will never ceased forging new adventures, and he passed away while on a much anticipated vacation with his family in Paris, France.

Will held a strong belief that every citizen had a responsibility to try to make his or her community a better place. Throughout his civic career, he served as a Breckenridge town Councilman, as Boulder County Democratic Party's Treasurer, and as President of PlanBoulder. Will worked at the Colorado Legislative Council as a budget analyst for 12 years, serving until he passed away. He also

committed himself to the City Planning Board, City Parks and Recreation Board, and the Affordable Housing Task Force, among other organizations.

While his involvement with education and the community are to be remembered, Will's lasting legacy rests in his family. He was a dedicated husband to his wife, Lynne and a proud parent to his daughter, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, Willard Meyer was a man who lived an accomplished life. Although friends and family are profoundly saddened by his passing, each can take solace in the wonderful life that he led. I know I speak for everyone who knew Will when I say he will be greatly missed.

H.R. 7, THE CHARITABLE CHOICE ACT OF 2001

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 7, the "Charitable Choice Act of 2001" because it is a fundamentally-flawed bill that would put in jeopardy one of the bedrock principles of the United States—the separation of church and state. Many religious organizations receive government funds to provide certain services under a carefully crafted and judicially-tested model and I believe these organizations have an important place in the social safety net. However, I have serious concerns about this "Charitable Choice" bill because it significantly deviates from the current system and permits religious organizations receiving federal funds to evade the Civil Rights Act and engage in employment discrimination based on religion. Also, it contains a major loophole that blurs the line between direct and indirect assistance to religious organizations and endangers important protections against governmental funding of religious organizations.

Religious organizations have been permitted to receive federal funds for social services since 1996 when the welfare reform bill was enacted into law. With the passage of the welfare reform bill came strict guidelines that serve to ensure the separation of church and state and the preservation of anti-discrimination laws. The current charitable choice model provides certain constitutional protections to ensure that religious activities are not supported by tax dollars. One of these provisions requires religious organizations to keep federal funds in separate accounts that are open to audit by the government. I believe religious organizations should be able to receive funds through the process in current law that protects the character of religious institutions while preserving the civil liberties of the general public. However, H.R. 7 would greatly expand current law and would break down the constitutional protections of the current system.

H.R. 7 would enable a religious organization to engage in discriminatory practices based on religion if an employee or potential employee does not practice the teachings and tenets of that religion. This creates a gaping hole in the civil liberties of many individuals including unwed and pregnant women, gays and lesbians, women who have had abortions, and divorced individuals. It could even reach people who use birth control or favor reproductive

rights. As if that was not enough, the bill intentionally supersedes any state or local anti-discrimination law. This means that a local law, passed by a community that believes employment discrimination based on religion is wrong could be effectively overturned if a religious organization receiving federal funds wants to fire an employee based solely on their beliefs. I find the willingness of this Congress to codify employment discrimination and destroy state and local antidiscrimination laws deplorable.

Additionally, the "Charitable Choice" bill would permit taxpayer dollars to go toward religious worship and proselytizing. Under current law, a religious organization that receives federal funding cannot use those funds for proselytizing, religious worship, or religious instruction. However, H.R. 7 contains an ill-defined provision that would allow federal funds to be funneled through governmental agencies in the form of vouchers that could be applied toward services provided by a religious organization. These funds would be available to religious organizations even if they are used for religious instruction, proselytizing, or sectarian worship. Congress should not weaken protections in current law that ensure the separation of church and state.

In conclusion, I believe H.R. 7 should have been defeated because it attacks some of the basic principles in America. I do not believe Congress should allow the wall dividing church and state to be chipped away. Congress should recognize the important contributions that religious organizations make in providing social services to needy people but should also maintain the essential protections for our democracy.

HONORING SUSIE LOAFMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember a caring and compassionate individual from Silvercliff, Colorado who has recently passed away. It is with profound sadness that I now rise to honor the life and memory of Susan Marie "Susie" Loafman who died on Wednesday, July 11, 2001.

Susie had endured cancer and diabetes for sometime, but this did not stop her from giving so much to others in her life and in the community. After graduating from Custer County High School in 1950, she proceeded to open a local restaurant in 1964 and named it "Susie's Cafe and Bar." The popularity of this establishment grew so great that people who knew of the restaurant would not drive by without visiting Susie's restaurant. Beyond the demands of operating the eatery, Susie was engaged civically with such organizations as the Chamber of Commerce, the Women's Club, the Altar and Rosary Society, the Merchants Association and the Custer County Cattlewomen. While adding to the community in this respect, she also built a strong foundation within the walls of her house by serving as a foster mother to over 30 foster children.

Mr. Speaker, at the age of 71, Susie Loafman will be remembered and appreciated for her spirit and kindness. As family and

friends mourn her passing, her lessons and tenderness will live forever in the hearts of those that knew her and that she assisted. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy and warmest regards to her family at this time of remembrance. She will surely be missed.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CAROLE JEAN THOMAS FAJARDO

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in remembrance of Carole Jean Thomas Fajardo, who passed away this month. Mrs. Fajardo was born in Pueblo, Colorado, and was a committed activist in the San Gabriel Valley and other areas. She graduated from the University of Texas in El Paso. She is survived by her husband Mr. Richard Fajardo who is a well-known attorney in the Los Angeles area. Her passions included music, art, animals, learning, and community empowerment efforts. And of course, Mrs. Fajardo adored her husband and family.

One of Mrs. Fajardo's most powerful traits was her innate passion for social justice. She served as a field deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, and was instrumental in helping empower community members and community based organizations. She was also a Warden's assistant who counseled families and prisoners at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. One of her duties was to assist family members and media representatives during scheduled prison executions.

Mrs. Fajardo was also a strong supporter of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and served as executive assistant to MALDEF President Antonia Hernandez. This is where she met and fell in love with her husband Richard Fajardo.

Mrs. Fajardo was also a volunteer at the Central American Resource Center. During her years at CARECEN, she helped people in need and served as a strong supporter of immigrant and refugee rights.

Mrs. Fajardo will be dearly missed. Let us continue to keep her in our hearts and minds, and follow her example of leadership and caring.

HONORING CHUCK AND LORENE TOBIN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Charles "Chuck" and Lorene Tobin for their many years of devotion to each other as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

After their marriage, the Tobin's moved to Dolores, Colorado in 1951, where Chuck began to work for the Texaco Bulk Plant and volunteered for the local fire department. After a dedicated career, he retired in 1992. Lorene was employed as a cafeteria cook with the Dolores School system until 1988. Since their retirement, they have both been enjoying the

great outdoors and other events throughout the community.

Chuck and Lorene met at the Old Del Rio Restaurant where she was a waitress, and the two instantly fell in love. They are the proud parents of two sons, Chuck and Mike Tobin, and a daughter, Lynda Grossberg. The couple still resides in Dolores, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a wonderful privilege and honor to salute the 50th anniversary of Chuck and Lorene Tobin. It is with excitement and admiration that I wish them many more great years together.

LIFT THE UNITED STATES EMBARGO ON CUBA

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, encouraged in part by a recent resolution passed by the Texas State Legislature, I rise again this Congress to introduce my bill to lift the United States Embargo on Cuba.

On June 29, 2001, the Texas state legislature adopted a resolution calling for an end to U.S. economic sanctions against Cuba. Lawmakers emphasized the failure of sanctions to remove Castro from power, and the unwillingness of other nations to respect the embargo. One Texas Representative stated:

"We have a lot of rice and agricultural products, as well as high-tech products, that would be much cheaper for Cuba to purchase from Texas. All that could come through the ports of Houston and Corpus Christi." I wholeheartedly support this resolution, and I have introduced similar federal legislation in past years to lift all trade, travel, and telecommunications restrictions with Cuba. I only wish Congress understood the simple wisdom expressed in Austin, so that we could end the harmful and ineffective trade sanctions that serve no national purpose.

I oppose economic sanctions for two very simple reasons. First, they don't work as effective foreign policy. Time after time, from Cuba to China to Iraq, we have failed to unseat despotic leaders by refusing to trade with the people of those nations. If anything, the anti-American sentiment aroused by sanctions often strengthens the popularity of such leaders, who use America as a convenient scapegoat to divert attention from their own tyranny. History clearly shows that free and open trade does far more to liberalize oppressive governments than trade wars. Economic freedom and political freedom are inextricably linked—when people get a taste of goods and information from abroad, they are less likely to tolerate a closed society at home. So while sanctions may serve our patriotic fervor, they mostly harm innocent citizens and do nothing to displace the governments we claim as enemies.

Second, sanctions simply hurt American industries, particularly agriculture. Every market we close to our nation's farmers is a market exploited by foreign farmers. China, Russia, the middle east, North Korea, and Cuba all represent huge markets for our farm products, yet many in Congress favor current or proposed trade restrictions that prevent our farmers from selling to the billions of people in